

European Nursing Students Association
Notes from the 2009 Annual General Meeting
8th - 11th July 2009-07-08



Welcome and Introductions

Eva Lohnscheidt and Yvonne Scholz nursing association officers welcomed ENSA to Berlin on behalf on DBfK. Carin Lhotsky (President) welcomed the delegates and officially opened AGM 2009. The delegates present were;

Name	Position Held	Country/ Organisation
Bard Nylun	Student president	Norwegian Nurses Organisation
Tone Moan	Executive committee	Norwegian Nurses Organisation
Maja Strand	Student vice-president	Norwegian Nurses Organisation
Carin Lhotsky	President	VARDFORBUNDET-Sweden
Mikaela Stadig	Student member	VARDFORBUNDET-Sweden
Sascha Laackmann	Executive committee	DBfK- Germany
Jens Dominik Roeder	Member of working group Young Nurses	DBfK- Germany
Anja Refsgaard	Student president	Sygepeljestuderendes Lanssamme
Mads Dippel Rasmussen	Student vice-president	Sygepeljestuderendes Lanssamme
Anna Nygaard Schjerning	Member of SLS Committee	Sygepeljestuderendes Lanssamme
Chistian Kappis	Member of working group Young Nurses	DBfK- Germany
Paul Young	Student Board Member	Royal College of Nursing
Saffron Brown	Vice- president	Royal College of Nursing
Claire Evans	ANS Board Member	Royal College of Nursing
Vanita Mathura	Executive committee	Netherlands
Gwennaelle Becourt	Student vice-president	FNESI- France
Yvonne Scholz	AGM Social Manager	DBfK- Germany

Official programme presented

Approval of Minutes from 2008

- The group noted two errors in the notes from 2008
- Maria Vestegaard was missed off the attendee list and she was present at the AGM 2008
- Mads Dippel Rasmussen was noted as being from Slovenia but he attended on behalf of Denmark

Social programme presented

- Change to plans for the evenings dinner arrangement

Introductions and Ice breakers

- Name games with two personal facts
- Spaghetti tower

Report from executive committee

- Carin- EFN, Bologna Process and directive 36
- Saffron- Bologna workshop, EU Help campaign, European Educators Forum
- Sascha- EFN , website development but explained the problems encountered and the progression necessary
- Vanita- Organisation of the Bologna workshop in Slovakia and the benefits of multidisciplinary working , The up and coming Parkinson Disease summer school
- Tone- The twinning project and the discussed that it was not successful because of the lack of support from the countries present last year.
- The executive committee roles discussed in 2008 on page 3 were reviewed and thought to have not worked for the current committee. The AGM decided that they were to keep the roles as a guide for the future but to comment on why it did not work to inform the future committee

ICN Student Network

- Mads Dippel Ramussen informed the AGM of how the network was formed, the current core steering group and the changes in the group to have representatives for regions (North America, South America, Europe, Africa, Pacific and Asia). It was felt that the application form was too complicated and the English was difficult to understand.
- Carin led the group in discussing the limitations of needing the signature and recommendation of the Dean of the Nursing School on the application form. It was understood that this was to verify that the applicant was a student however, applicants can apply 2 years post qualifying and there would not have a dean. Applicants can also be post graduate students. The application form was discussed as not accessible for all because of difficulties in downloading the form.

Report from Members

- Norway reported on the raised profile of the Nursing Students Association in politics and the media
- UK reported on the structure of ANS within the RCN, RCN Congress 2009 and student's day. NMC review of pre-registration nursing and the development of preceptorship.

- France reported on current education reforms and will keep ENSA informed of developments and progress. The current efforts in France are too improve the image and profile of nurses
- Denmark reported an 18% reduction in nursing students which has led to initiative to increase the recruitment of young people into nursing. They celebrated Nurses Day (May 12th) for the first time. There is current work to improve the quality of clinical placements.
- Germany is currently having issues with the government limiting the status of the nursing profession. In Germany the education is in school as opposed to universities and the age of entry has reduced to 16 years
- Sweden described their organisation which includes microbiologists and radiologists
- Netherlands has no student organisation and reported limited diversity and initiative to recruit ethnic minorities. There has been the development of the nursing assistant role.

Country Reports

Each country reported on education in their country under the following headings.

- How many years is nursing education?
- Level of education required for entrance to the nursing program (minimum age)
- Level of education (diploma, apprenticeship or degree)
- How the training is structured (general training, branch specified)?
- What are the main subject areas covered throughout your education?
- Further education possibilities
- Do you have a national curriculum?
- Has the bologna process been implemented in your country? If so, what changes have been made?
- What percentage of your education is spent in clinical practice?
- Is your clinical practice assessed, how?
- Is there a minimum level of education for university teachers?
- Is there a minimum level of education/training for clinical mentors?

Andreas Xyrichis reported on education in Cyprus. All reports have been submitted for future reference.

Nursing and the financial crisis

This presentation was delivered by Andreas Xyrichis on the work of the EFN. "The members' report on the Impact of the Financial Crisis" was presented to the AGM which is accessible on the website- www.efnweb.eu

Topics explored were budget cuts, nursing posts, pay and workload. The average budget cut in healthcare provisions is 6%. In Cyprus the nursing posts have been halved from 250- 125. The group discussed the effect of this as reduced support, reduced opportunities to take annual leave and potential unit closures. This has also affected the jobs available because there are 200 students graduating. Throughout Europe specialist nurses are being expected to return to general practice and nursing assistants are replacing registered nurses and cheaper labour. With the increase in social deprivation with poor eating habits, smoking,

depression and alcoholism. This increases the workload of nurses but is not being reflected in pay benefits. The session was concluded as the poorer countries need support as they are more vulnerable and solidarity needed in the profession. A statement made was more money for more health and the input the AGM discussed they could have with this is to ask more from their university, a structured career pathway (best use of the knowledge gained), personal development and to define the need of a nurse so replacement with cheap labour is not possible.

EU- Help Campaign

The help presentation was delivered by Saffron Brown with a summary of the evaluation that she represented ENSA at in October 2008. The presentation was sent by ? . The group discussed potential involvement and project planning that will follow in another session.

Workshops

The group split into three smaller groups and spent time discussing education under the following headings; 1) assessment of practice, 2) mentorship and 3) relating theory to practice. Saffron, Tone and Vanita then summarised the discussions which will be used to formulate a statement.

Twinning Project

Tone presented the twinning project to the group with reference to AGM minutes 2008, page 5. The countries that were present at the AGM accepted responsibility of their twin countries but did not get in contact with ENSA after the AGM.

ENSA Statement 2009

The group spent time finalising their statement based on the outcomes and discussions of the workshops. The statement was passed unanimously by the group. The statement will be attached as appendix 1.

EU- Help

There were ideas brought forward from the UK, Norway, Sweden and the Netherlands and have been submitted.

ICN Students Network

A letter was drafted by a group to the network which raised concerns. This letter will be sent to the network as opposed to ICN. This letter will be attached as appendix 3.

Elections

There were two nominations for the presidency, Saffron Brown and Anna Scherning who delivered a small speech describing their interests and to appeal for votes. Each country had one vote and the outcome of the election;
President: Saffron Brown, United Kingdom

The vice- president was elected unopposed:
Vice- President: Sascha Lackmann, Germany

There were four nominations for the remaining three positions on the Executive Committee, Maja Strand, Mikaela Stadig, Gwennaëlle Becourt, and Claire Evans. Each nominee was asked to deliver a small speech describing their interest in serving on the committee and to appeal for votes. Each country was then given one vote to include the names of the three nominees they would like to elect onto the committee. The votes were counted and the following were announced as the new executive committee:

Gwennaëlle Becourt, France

Maja Strand, Norway

Mikaela Stadig, Sweden

Claire Evans will remain in reserve should any member wish to step down from the committee.

ENSA Future and suggestions

- Change the date for the AGM from April/May- Sept/Oct
- Attend international events as a committee when possible
- Establish a website
- Gain funding
- Attend the EFN meeting as an observer
- Increase communication between members and spread the word of ENSA
- Present the statement to EFN
- Regular meetings online to set goals
- Have the mid term meeting where the AGM will be held.
- Develop relations with wider Europe

Evaluation

That time keeping has been a problem that has to be identified in the future. Information provided in the invitation for events such as “ENSA got talent”. The German nursing association have been highly support and pleased with our presence. The number of people representing one country despite one voting member may be intimidating for single attendees. To look into the possibility of seeing a hospital or a university in the hosting country.

Dates for the next

Gwennaëlle Becourt to look into possible dates for the next year’s AGM and to contact everybody as soon as a suitable date is identified.



European Nursing Students Association
Statement
The Financial Crisis and its impact on
Nursing Education

11th July 2009

The European Nursing Student Association (ENSA) have recently been notified of the European Federation of Nurses (EFN) members report on the Impact of the Financial Crisis. The report shows that the financial crisis has an influence on healthcare in general and nursing and nurses in particular. Europe is experiencing budget cuts, loss of nursing post and workforce leading to an increased workload for nurses at the same time as there is a loss in pay. An area that is also largely effected by the financial crises identified in the EFN report is the nursing education and this is a main concern of ENSA. In addition to the visible effect ENSA also recognises that the increased workload on nurses has an impact on the outcome of our clinical education. Nurses are not only working for patients and their health and safety, but also as mentors and teachers for nursing students during their clinical placement. In times of crisis the healthcare is of value to all citizens and its quality should not be sacrificed for short term gains. It is of great importance to invest money in healthcare but as just as important to get the best healthcare possible for the money invested. As nursing students we are the experts on our education; how we experience it and what is missing, hence what is lacking in our knowledge. ENSA suggests the following will increase quality healthcare and patient safety.

- Around 50% of our education is spent in clinical placement. Therefore it is of great importance that our mentors are highly qualified, professional and competent not just as nurses but as mentors also.
- There must be enough nurses in the clinical placement to provide professional mentorship for all nursing students present.
- The mentors should have relevant training to mentor, giving opportunity for registered nurses to participate.
- Mentoring needs to be made attractive and beneficial for nurses. Allowing mentorship to be a highlighted focused area from a time consuming and financial prospective.
- The long term outcome of investing in mentors will be highly qualified newly graduated nurses. This will not only be beneficial for patient safety but crucial for good quality healthcare.

Appendix 2

ENSA AGM

Berlin

11.07.2009

Dear ICN Student Network Core Steering Group,

At our recent European Nursing Students Association (ENSA) Meeting, we have discussed issues around the current ICN network. We are pleased with the progress that has been made with the ICN network since the initial meeting in Taiwan in 2005.

We do however have some concerns about how to inform nursing students worldwide about the network. As you will appreciate not everyone has access to the internet due to the poor communications infrastructure within certain countries. This highlights our concern about the distribution of information to all nursing students across the world as your main method of communication regarding the network is based on the internet. Although we are unable to come up with a solution to the communication problem, we just wanted to highlight this concern with yourselves.

Another issue which has been highlighted from ENSA is that the ICN Student network appears to be missing a large number of students within the European Continent. An example is France which has a huge network of 80000 nursing students who are not represented by an ICN Member. Therefore many nursing students are missing out on a vital opportunity to join a huge community of students worldwide and the ability to voice their opinions within the worldwide community. Our concern is that these students are not aware of the ICN network and we would like to suggest that you increase awareness on this issue.

We have concerns around the application process for the core steering group. These include the verification process of being a student nurse. Firstly, you are required to be verified as a student nurse by the Dean of your school. Within many places this is not possible due to the communications within the particular school or university. Secondly it is known that within some countries that student politics and activism are not looked upon gracefully. For student nurses from these countries, they will never be able to run for any of the Core Steering group positions due to the repercussions that may occur from them highlighting their interest. Thirdly and finally is that you are allowed to be a member of the ICN student nurse network

2 years post initial nursing qualification, therefore you will be unable to gain signature from your Dean of School.

We hope that you will take into account some of these issues when looking to promote the ICN further globally and we will fully support you and wish you the best as a steering group for the next two years.

Yours Sincerely,

On behalf of European Nursing Students Association